

The Honorable James Marleau  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health Policy  
Michigan Senate  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

May 2, 2014

Senate Bill 879

Dear Sirs:

I have spent the majority of my professional career as a Diagnostic Radiologist interpreting mammograms. The importance of mammographic breast density is a matter I deal with on a daily basis. The greater a woman's glandular breast density is on her mammogram, the harder it is to detect abnormalities on that mammogram. The overlying glandular tissue obscures abnormalities such as cancer, and, unfortunately many times these are not found until they are in an advanced stage.

Women with a greater percentage of glandular tissue have an increased risk of developing breast cancer, as cancers develop from abnormal breast tissue cells.

It is vital that women be made aware of their breast density. This information needs to be documented on the mammographic report and the patient should be made aware via that report as well as her primary care physician.

Respectfully,

Miriam D. Pellerito, M.D.  
(Electronic Signature)

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